



Fw: Latest twist on asbestos risk
Carol Campbell
to:
Hansen.Judy
03/18/2011 01:50 PM
Show Details

Wbby Asbestos
Studies

1266048 - R8 SDMS

5 Attachments



BTXC_A_327783_O.pdf BTXC_A_327482_O.pdf Berman 2010.pdf Rel Risk Manuscript 31311 Fnl Distribution Ver locked.pdf



RESPONSES TO COMMENTS FROM JOHN AND LESLIE 061010 Accpeted Cmplt.pdf



Fnl Transmittal Letter to EPA OSWAR staff 031511.pdf

Please print

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----- Forwarded by Carol Campbell/R8/USEPA/US on 03/18/2011 01:50 PM -----

From: Elizabeth Southerland/DC/USEPA/US
To: Carol Campbell/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, Bill Murray/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, Deborah McKean/R8/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/18/2011 11:35 AM
Subject: Fw: Latest twist on asbestos risk

Wanted you to be aware of this new email from Berman to Mathy. Mathy has forwarded it to Paul Anastas and asked ORD to take the lead in responding to Berman.

----- Forwarded by Elizabeth Southerland/DC/USEPA/US on 03/18/2011 01:34 PM -----

From: Mathy Stanislaus/DC/USEPA/US
To: "Lisa Feldt" <Feldt.Lisa@epamail.epa.gov>, "Barry Breen" <Breen.Barry@epamail.epa.gov>, "Mr. James Woolford" <Woolford.James@epamail.epa.gov>, "Barnes Johnson" <Johnson.Barnes@epamail.epa.gov>, "Elizabeth Southerland" <Southerland.Elizabeth@epamail.epa.gov>
Date: 03/16/2011 05:33 PM
Subject: Fw: Latest twist on asbestos risk

From: "D Wayne Berman" [bermanw@comcast.net]
Sent: 03/15/2011 08:45 PM MST
To: Mathy Stanislaus
Subject: Latest twist on asbestos risk

Dear Mr. Mathy:

You may recognize me as the individual who conducted pioneering work for the USEPA between 1986 and 2006 developing a new protocol for assessing asbestos-related risks (Berman and Crump 2003) and companion methods for the determination of asbestos in air (Berman and Chatfield 1990, Chatfield and Berman 1990) and in soils or other bulk materials (Berman and Kolk 1997, 2000). The protocol, which was subjected to a peer-review consultation in 2003 (ERG 2003) and was favorably received (although with suggestions for improvements), was unique because it addressed the effects of fiber size and type. A slightly revised version incorporating a sensitivity analysis has since been published in the peer-reviewed literature (Berman and Crump 2008a,b) and, for convenience, copies are attached. Those publications were also followed by a peer-reviewed study (Berman 2010a) incorporating new data from a South Carolina textile plant that, among other things, suggests that the biggest unresolved discrepancy among asbestos epidemiology studies can in fact be reconciled. The study also generated an informative exchange of comments with Drs. John Dement and Leslie Stayner (Berman 2010b). Copies of these are also attached.

I also thought you would be interested in my most recent publication on this topic (Berman 2011- attached), which shows that differences in risks predicted, respectively, using the Berman and Crump or current EPA protocol (IRIS current, EPA 2008) is due primarily to: (1) arbitrary selection of the lowest of available mesothelioma potency factors (K_M 's) to generate the EPA slope factor rather than a mean or upper bound) and (2) reliance on an untested model to support the assumption that chrysotile and amphibole asbestos are equipotent. Interestingly, when that model is fit to data available today, even that model shows a significant difference in potency between the two asbestos types. Thus, adjusting for these differences, the two protocols can be completely reconciled. Another important conclusion of the paper is that, without these adjustments, the current EPA protocol provides severe underestimates of amphibole asbestos-related risks (relative to our protocol).

I have also attached a cover letter that I wrote to accompany the attached studies, which summarizes the overall status of the ongoing research I have been conducting to accomplish this work. The reason I am writing, as discussed in the cover letter, is to understand what level of interest USEPA might have in this work.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I look forward to receiving your response.

Regards,

Wayne

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